

Application Serial No. 09/870,143
Attorney Docket No. 00-5018(b)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A gateway located at consumer premises and having a user interface for allowing a user at the consumer premises to interact with the gateway and thereby obtain user services, the gateway comprising:
- a secure partition operable to control access to at least one ~~utility service and a bundle associated with the secure partition;~~
 - a consumer service associated with the secure partition;
 - an application programmer interface (API) bundle associated with the secure partition and providing at least one support function to the consumer service;
 - a provisioning service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the provisioning service operable to install the consumer service;
 - ~~a billing service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the billing service operable to provide billing capabilities to the consumer service;~~
 - a profile service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the profile service operable to store a user profile plurality of user profiles, each of the user profiles including user preference information identifying a customized presentation of information to be provided to a user when the user accesses the gateway and information identifying the user's preference associated with at least one user device;
 - an authentication service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the authentication service operable to authorize a user associated with the gateway;

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a remote-logging service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle,
the remote-logging service operable to log an event associated with the consumer service;
and

a maintenance service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, the
maintenance service operable to periodically test a network connection associated with a
network coupled to the gateway to determine [a] the network status associated with the
gateway and communicate the network status to the consumer service.

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2. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 1, wherein the provisioning service is further operable to:

receive a request from the consumer service; and
update the consumer service based on the request.

3. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 1, further comprising:

a billing service [wherein the billing service is further] operable to:
receive a request from the consumer service; and
bill the user in response to the request.

4. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 1, wherein the profile service is further operable to:

receive a request from the consumer service; and
retrieve user preference information from the user profile based on the request.

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5. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 4, wherein the consumer service is operable to:

receive the user preference information from the profile service; and
customize functionality associated with the consumer service based on the user
preference information.

6. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 1, wherein the authentication service is further operable to:

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receive a request from the consumer service;
determine whether the user may access the consumer service; and
communicate an authentication result associated with the determination to the
consumer service.

7. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 6, wherein the consumer service is operable to:

receive the authentication result from the authentication service;
deny access to the consumer service when the authentication result indicates that
the user is not authorized to access the consumer service; and
grant access to the consumer service when the authentication result indicates that
the user is authorized to access the consumer service.

8. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 1, wherein the remote logging service is further operable to:

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receiv a request from the consumer service; and
store events associated with the consumer service based on the request.

9. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 1, wherein the maintenance service is further operable to:

receive a request from the consumer service;

determine the network status based on a the network connection associated with
the network coupled to the gateway; and

communicate the network status to the consumer service.

10. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 1, wherein the support functions comprise user interface support functions.

11. (currently amended) The gateway ~~for providing consumer services according to~~
of Claim 1, wherein the consumer service comprises a monthly subscription service.

12. (currently amended) A method for providing a consumer service to consumer
premises using a gateway located upon the premises, the gateway having a user interface
for allowing a user to interact with the gateway, the method comprising:

controlling access to at least one consumer service associated with a secure
partition;

providing the consumer service associated with the secure partition;

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providing at least one support function to the consumer service by an application programmer interface (API) bundle associated with the secure partition;

installing the consumer service by a provisioning service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle;

~~billing a user by a billing service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle;~~

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storing a plurality of user profile profiles associated with ~~the user~~ a plurality of users by a profile service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle, each of the user profiles including user preference information identifying a customized presentation of information to be provided to a user when the user accesses the gateway and information identifying the user's preference associated with at least one user device;

authenticating the user by an authentication service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle;

logging an event associated with the consumer service by a remote-logging service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle; ~~and~~

determining a network status associated with a the gateway by a maintenance service associated with the secure partition and the API bundle; and

communicating the network status to the consumer service.

13. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the gateway according to Claim 12, wherein installing the consumer service further comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service; and

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updating the consumer service based on the request.

14. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the gateway according to Claim 12, wherein billing the user comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service;

billing the user based on the request and the consumer service.

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15. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the gateway according to Claim 12 and further comprising:

receiving a request from the consumer service; and

retrieving user preference information from the user profile based on the request.

16. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the gateway according to Claim 15 and further comprising:

receiving the user preference information from the profile service at the consumer service; and

modifying functionality associated with the consumer service based on the user preference information.

17. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the gateway according to Claim 12, wherein authenticating the user further comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service;

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determining whether the user may access the consumer service; and
communicating an authentication result based on the determination to the
consumer service.

18. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the
gateway according to Claim 17 and further comprising:

receiving the authentication result from the authentication service at the consumer
service;

B2 denying access to the consumer service when the authentication result indicates
that the user is not authorized to access the consumer service; and

granting access to the consumer service when the authentication result indicates
that the user is authorized to access the consumer service.

19. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the
gateway according to Claim 12, wherein logging events further comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service; and

storing events associated with the consumer service based on the request.

20. (currently amended) The method for providing consumer services at the
gateway according to Claim 12, wherein determining the network status comprises:

receiving a request from the consumer service; and

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determining the network status based on a network connection associated with the gateway; and

~~communicating the network status to the consumer service.~~

21. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the gateway according to Claim 12, wherein the support functions comprise user interface support functions.

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22. (previously presented) The method for providing consumer services at the gateway according to Claim 12, wherein the consumer service comprises a monthly subscription service.

23. (new) The gateway of claim 1, wherein the profile service is configured to store a unique identifier associated with each of the plurality of user profiles, each unique identifier being associated with one of the plurality of users.

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24. (new) The gateway of claim 1, wherein the consumer service is configured to: provide the user with at least one alternative when the network status indicates that the network connection is unavailable.

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25. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the storing a plurality of user profiles includes storing a unique identifier associated with each of the plurality of user profiles, each unique identifier being associated with one of the plurality of users.

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26. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
providing the user, in response to a user request, at least one alternative when the network status associated with the gateway indicates that a network connection is unavailable.

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Heindel each include a gateway to facilitate the exchange of billing statement templates and billing data (Heindel –Abstract and Fig. 3). Heindel, however, does not disclose or suggest that either of the gateways 80 or 86 (see Fig. 3) store a plurality of user profiles, where each of the user profiles includes user preference information identifying a customized presentation of information to be provided to a user when the user accesses the gateway and information identifying the user's preference associated with at least one user device, as recited in amended claim 1.

Vasell also does not disclose or suggest these features. For example, Vasell, as discussed in the Office Action at page 3, discloses a service gateway that facilitates the implementation, operation and maintenance of services to an end user (Vasell – col. 2, lines 60-67). The service gateway in Vasell refers to a platform that serves one end user (Vasell – col. 4, lines 39-41). Vasell does not disclose or suggest that the service gateway stores a plurality of user profiles, as recited in amended claim 1. Vasell also does not disclose or suggest that each of the plurality of user profiles includes user preference information identifying a customized presentation of information to be provided to a user when the user accesses the gateway and information identifying the user's preference associated with at least one user device, as also recited in amended claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, also recites that the maintenance service is operable to periodically test a network connection associated with a network coupled to the gateway to determine the network status and communicate the network status to the consumer service. Support for this feature is given, for example, at paragraph 0095 on page 27 of the applicants' disclosure.